

# Bureau of Land Management Junior Explorer



## Archaeology and History Activity Book



BLM lands have many awesome natural wonders and cultural resources, which are things and structures made by people. Help your Junior Explorer friend find a path through the maze. Along the way, circle all the natural resources with a blue pen or marker and circle the cultural resources red.



## Clues to the Past

Archaeologists are scientists who study evidence of past human activity. They look at ancient buildings and artifacts—objects made by people—to help them determine how humans lived long ago. Can you look at clues the way an archaeologist does? What do these artifacts tell you about Americans from the past? Circle your answer.

1

- a. They bought dishes at a store.
- b. They only used broken dishes.
- c. They were artists.
- d. They knew how to make paint from natural materials.
- e. c and d



2

- a. They had an alphabet.
- b. They knew creatures from space.
- c. They used symbols.
- d. They made petroglyphs with electric power tools.



3

- a. They knew where to find the right kind of stone.
- b. They needed sharp tools.
- c. They were hunters.
- d. All of the above



4

- a. They had only one bathtub.
- b. Over 100 people lived in one place.
- c. They had a 2-car garage.
- d. They were not nomads.



Now, look at the statements below and decide whether they are **True** or **False**.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Archaeologists study dinosaurs.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Historians study current events.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Archaeological and historic sites are important because they often contain gold.
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ As a steward of America's historic treasures, a BLM Junior Explorer must help take care of America's archaeological and historic sites.
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 260 million acres of America's public lands belong to you.
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ When you find an ancient or historic artifact, you should take it home with you.

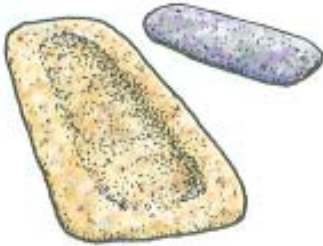
## Puzzle Pieces

Many of the artifacts that archaeologists find are not complete. Like detectives, they put together these clues to try and paint a complete picture of life in the past. Do you want try it? Look at the clues in the first column. Draw a line connecting each artifact with its more complete picture in the second column. Then draw a line from the complete artifact to the related picture in the third column.

A



B



C



D



E



1



2



3



4



5



1



2



3



4



5





## More Clues to the Past

Besides objects that they made, ancient peoples also left behind rock art. They made paintings on rocks, called pictographs. And they also used tools to carve into rock, creating what we call petroglyphs. Rock art can provide archaeologists with information about how ancient peoples lived. Look at the examples below and write down what this rock art tells you about the past.



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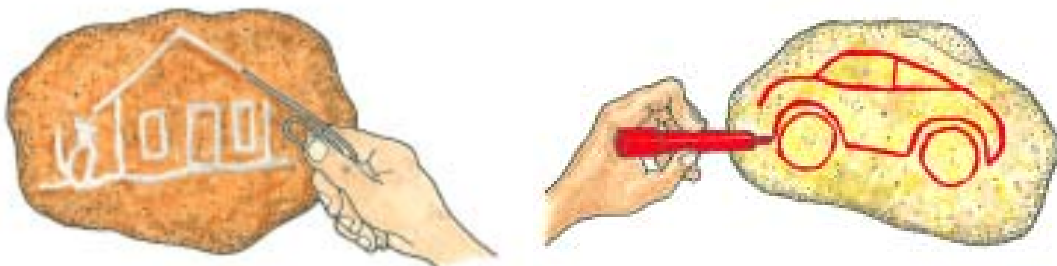
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### Make Your Own Rock Art

Using clay or plaster of paris, you can make your own petroglyphs. Take a slab of clay or dry plaster and use a paperclip to engrave a design. Or you can take a small flat piece of stone and use markers or crayons to make pictographs.



**Remember!** Never make marks on real rocks or rock art. If you ever see someone harming rock art, walk away and report him or her to the police. It's against the law to harm these clues to the past.

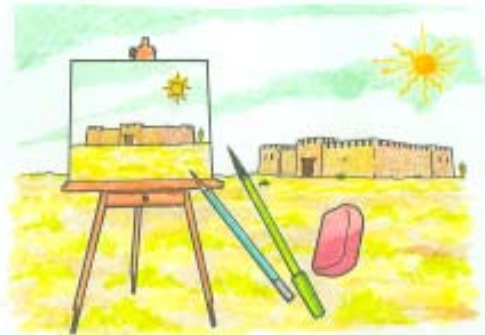
## Being a Good Steward

As a BLM Junior Explorer, you can play an important role in caring for the natural and cultural resources on public lands. We call people who take care of things "stewards." Do you know what things you should do to be a good steward of America's cultural resources? Look at the pictures below and circle the actions that would protect these resources. Draw an X through the pictures that show actions that would harm these clues to American's past.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



# Answer Key

## Amazing Wonders

Natural Resources: 10. stream, 3. mountains, 1. deer, 5. owl, 12. waterfall, and 7. desert.

Cultural Resources: 2. fort, 9. rock art, 8. cliff dwelling, 11. arrowhead, 6. pioneer cabin, and 4. mining relics.

## Clues to the Past

1. E—Even though sherds are from broken pots, they can tell us many things, such as the style of pottery, the technology used to make the pot, and an estimation of the size and shape of the unbroken vessel. People at different times and places made different styles of pottery, so a sherd can even tell us its age and the culture of its maker.
2. C—There was no true writing system in North America before the Europeans came. We do not know the meaning rock art had to its makers.
3. D—Like pottery, the style of an arrowhead can tell us its approximate age and the culture of the person who made it.
4. D—People who make structures meant to be permanent are not usually nomads. Nomadic people live in tents, caves, or structures that can be assembled in a hurry using locally available materials, such as grass and brush.

## True or False

1. False. Archaeologists learn about people of the past by studying the things they left behind. Dinosaurs and people were not on the earth at the same time—dinosaurs died out 65 million years before humans appeared. Paleontologists study dinosaurs, plants, and other fossils.
2. False. Historians study past events by examining written records and other material evidence of human activity.
3. False. Sites can reveal wonderful, exciting, and mysterious stories about cultures that no longer exist, and can show us how we have affected and been affected by the environment. These lessons from the past can help us solve modern day problems. Sites almost never contain gold.
4. True. Many of America's millions of archaeological and historic sites are in remote locations and are not guarded by rangers. Everyone is on the honor system when visiting these sites.
5. True. These lands belong to all of the people of the United States, and are managed on behalf of all Americans, present and future, by the Bureau of Land Management.
6. False. Everyone can protect historic and archaeological sites by never collecting artifacts and by reporting anyone they see damaging sites to rangers or police.

## Puzzle Pieces

A21, B34, C42, D53, E15

## Steward Dos and Don'ts

Dos: 2,3,5      Don'ts: 1,4,6,7,8

# Bureau of Land Management Junior Explorer



As a Bureau of Land Management Junior Explorer, I promise to:

- \* do all I can to help preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of our public lands
- \* be aware of how my actions can affect other living things and evidence of our past
- \* keep learning about the importance of nature and our heritage
- \* share what I have learned with others

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Date

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Explorer signature

